

Tom Horne
Superintendent



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Contact: Doug Nick, Interim Press Secretary
602-364-1945

**HORNE MEETS WITH LEADERS OF UNDERPERFORMING
SCHOOLS TO GET INPUT ON HOW TO MAKE SCHOOL
PROCESS IMPROVEMENT**

KICKS OFF SOLUTIONS TEAMS PROCESS

PHOENIX (October 29, 2003) – Arizona’s schools chief Tom Horne today kicked off the process for establishing “Solutions Teams” that will be sent to schools that are labeled underperforming based on the Arizona LEARNS accountability system. Superintendent Horne met with approximately 40 leaders from underperforming schools, from all parts of the state, to hear their suggestions on how to make the Solutions Teams most effective.

“As we prepare to send out solutions teams, it is important that the needs of the schools to be helped dictate the process. The most important first step was to hear from the leaders of the schools to be helped. Rather than a centrally-directed system, this will be a constituent-directed system, and therefore will be far more effective,” Horne said.

Among the comments heard by Superintendent Horne today are the need for getting more parents involved in education, encouraging better attendance, and having sufficient resources to implement proposed improvements. In addition, statewide workshops should be held whereby local schools and districts would be able to learn more about the process of labeling and how the data is formulated to create labels.

Superintendent Horne agreed with these assessments and has committed the resources of the department to implement these suggestions.

“It’s the job of the Arizona Department of Education to find what are known as the “best practices” being used by schools across the state to address the problems raised by underperforming schools, and then help them implement those best practices,” Horne added.

Team members will be selected from the ranks of teachers, local superintendents, principals and university faculty. In addition to having a record of success, the team members will be selected to ensure teams are experienced with a particular school’s demographics. The first teams will be sent into the field in December with additional teams being assigned through early next year.

Applications for inclusion on a Solutions Team are being accepted on an ongoing basis and are available at the Arizona Department of Education website at: www.ade.az.gov. The Solutions Team link is on the main page of the site.

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